



**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q77349

Tetsuya SHIOZAKI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/665,006

Group Art Unit: 1621

Confirmation No.: 5832

Examiner: Chukwuma O. Nwaonicha

Filed: September 22, 2003

For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING 3-METHYLTHIOPROPANAL

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 14, 2005, please consider the remarks as follows.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

**I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent No. 2,776,996 to Hunt et al. ("Hunt et al.").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Hunt et al. teach that "[t]he base should be in excess of acetic acid, when the reactants are mixed in continuous operation" (column 2, line 71 to column 3, line 14). According to this, Hunt et al. teaches that a basic compound is used in an amount of more than 1 mol per mol of the